

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 007297

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Al-Killer - Hurriyet
Bush: terrorists hate free nations - Milliyet
Bush: Now is the time to show our might - Sabah
British demonstrators hold Bush responsible for Istanbul
bombings - Hurriyet
Secretary Straw: Evidence points to Al-Qaida - Sabah

SIPDIS

PM Erdogan: terrorists will be damned forever - Sabah
Time for unity - Sabah
Jason Burke: Turkey the target of Islamist terror - Milliyet
British government warns nationals not to travel to Turkey -
Milliyet
Israeli military says Turkey a 'soft target' for terror -
Milliyet
Consul General Short was fan of Istanbul - Sabah
Terror once again targets humanity - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

Al-Qaida in war with Turkey - Radikal
World decries attacks as barbaric - Cumhuriyet
Bombs shake Turkey - Cumhuriyet
Bush: Terrorists aim to demoralize nations, intimidate
freedom - Zaman
Wolfowitz: Istanbul bombings will bring civilized world
together - Zaman
Terror hits Turkey and Britain - Cumhuriyet
Turkey united in the face of terror - Yeni Safak
Dirty trap: International terror takes the stage -
Cumhuriyet
Blair, Bush: No compromise with terror - Yeni Safak
Analysts believe attacks on Turkey will continue - Radikal

BRIEFING

New terror attacks in Istanbul: 27 people were killed and 455 wounded in twin suicide attacks on the British consulate and HSBC bank headquarters in Istanbul on Thursday. The bombings came five days after suicide car bomb attacks on two synagogues in Istanbul that killed 25 and injuring hundreds. The British Consul General, Roger Short, who began his diplomatic career in Ankara in 1969, was killed in the attack on the consulate. The van that exploded at the gate of the consulate was disguised as a catering vehicle, witnesses reported. FM Gul noted that yesterday's attacks targeted British interests in Turkey, and he called on the world to cooperate with Turkey in the fight against terrorism. 'Al-Qaeda is waging war against Turkey,' 'Radikal' claimed. All papers agree that the attacks are aimed at intimidating the nation. 'Hurriyet' reported that the bombers in both attacks had been identified, and that both were Turks. Seven suspects have reportedly been detained. President Bush and Prime Minister Blair voiced support for Turkey in the fight against terror at their joint press conference in London. 'The nature of terrorists is in evidence once again - we see their utter contempt for innocent life. They hate freedom, they hate free nations,' President Bush said. Dailies speculate that Al-Qaida may have been trying to cast a shadow over the historic visit by

President Bush to the UK. UN Secretary General Annan and other world leaders extended condolences to Turkey. US Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz said the attacks would not drive a wedge between the US and Turkey, but rather reinforce solidarity between the two countries and with Israel. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw arrived in Istanbul Thursday evening, and Scotland Yard is to send a team of terror experts to Turkey. The council of ministers convened an extraordinary session to discuss the bombings, but rejected a proposal for declaring martial law. The temporary head of the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC), Jalal Talabani, said that Saddam Hussein had been providing financial support for such terror attacks. CHP leader Deniz Baykal criticized the AK Party government for releasing some Hizbullah militants through a recent amnesty law. Analysts expect Istanbul to lose at least 50 percent of its tourism potential in 2004. Most scheduled tours to Turkey were being cancelled in the wake of the attacks.

US to launch operations against the PKK: Deputy Chief of TGS General Ilker Basbug, in Washington for the high-level joint defense group meetings, said the US and Turkey have agreed on a comprehensive military operation against the PKK/KADEK in Northern Iraq. General Basbug said Turkey would discuss the details of the operation with his American counterpart, General Peter Pace, who will visit Turkey in during the first week in December. Basbug stressed that Turkey's military presence in Northern Iraq would end once the PKK is eliminated.

EDITORIAL OPINION: New wave of terror in Istanbul

"Turkey's 9/11"

Sedat Ergin analyzed in mass appeal Hurriyet (11/21): "There seems to be a close relationship between the spiritual mood of the suicide bombers and their preference to choose Turkey as an operations area. This fact is related to the vision of the terrorist organization behind the bombings and its peculiar interpretation of Islam. Let's be clear and bold: The gist of the issue stems from an interpretation of Islam which legitimizes bloody terror acts in the name of Allah. This interpretation has supporters in the vast Islamic geography, including in Turkey. . It does not come as a surprise that these fundamentalists have chosen Turkey for their terror attacks. They have attacked synagogues and British interests in Turkey, and by doing so they are killing two birds with one stone. They are not only sending the message to their target countries, but also striking a blow against Turkey, which stands as the complete antithesis of this fundamentalist approach to Islam."

"A Brutal Message, and We Know What It Means"

Mehmet Ocaktan argued in the Islamist-oriented Yeni Safak (11/21): "There is a clear message to read in these events. This is a vicious plot against Turkey. It does not matter any more whether Al-Qaida or some other terrorist organization actually carried it out. It has almost been two years that we are dealing with Bin-Laden and Al-Qaida, which is an organization designed by the US. We see neither the capture of Bin-Laden nor anything happening against Al-Qaida. It is very likely that it will continue like this. Yet we are aware of the fact that America is occupying countries, killing women and children, and stealing others' democratic ideals on the pretext of a war against terrorism. The gang which is turning the world into a hell is now free. The evil policies of Bush and Sharon have caused terrorism to grow and to spread."

"The Istanbul Bombings"

Sami Kohen wrote in mass appeal Milliyet (11/21): "The attacks yesterday in Istanbul indicate the fact that Turkey is facing a terror campaign which has many international dimensions. This is a very critical situation. Turkey must act as quickly as possible to respond. One response is through more solid security measures, efficient intelligence and better coordination. The second response is to make an objective analysis of the reasons behind these events and to make necessary fine-tunings in both foreign and domestic policies. Results in the fight against terrorism can only be achieved by following these two channels simultaneously."

"Why Turkey?"

Rusen Cakir opined in mass appeal Vatan (11/21): "Immediately after asking the question, 'Why Turkey?' it is also necessary to ask, 'Why Istanbul?' If Al-Qaida had targeted only Turkey's foreign policy establishment, then probably it would have chosen Ankara. But by striking Istanbul, it also targeted to a great extent the culture and

civilization of the Islamic world, and all of the values created by the Islamic world throughout history. It is necessary for Turks, as the subjects of these values, to stand up and be counted in the fight against global terrorism. The society -- not the state -- can be the catalyst for this response."

EDELMAN